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JOURNAL
OF THE
House of Representatives
OF THE
FIRST CALLED SESSION
OF THE
Forty-fifth Legislature

BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN
MAY 27, 1937



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HOUSE JOURNAL

FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST CALLED SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY

Hall of the House of Representatives,
Austin, Texas,
Thursday, May 27, 1937.

In obedience of the proclamation of His Excellency, James V. Allred, Governor of Texas, convening the Forty-fifth Legislature to meet in Special Session at Austin, the seat of government, this the twenty-seventh day of May, 1937, the Members of the House of Representatives assembled in Representative Hall, and at 12:00 o'clock noon, the House was called to order by the Hon. R. W. Calvert, Speaker.

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker laid before the House, and had read, the following proclamation by the Governor:
To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

At the Regular Session of the Legislature in 1933 an amendment was tied on to the general appropriation bill in free conference purporting to legalize so-called pari-mutuel betting at race tracks, in such form as to compel Members to vote against the entire appropriation bill or, by voting for it, to accept legalization of race track gambling.

Thereafter at the First Called Session of the Forty-third Legislature a separate Act was passed creating the Texas Racing Commission and legalizing so-called pari-mutuel betting at race tracks.

In the gubernatorial campaigns of 1934 and 1936 the repeal of the race track gambling law was a clear-cut issue. The people by their ballots asked for the repeal of this law; and subsequently at the Democratic State Conventions in both 1934 and 1936 a

positive demand was made that race track gambling be outlawed in Texas.

Notwithstanding these platform demands, the Forty-fourth Legislature two years ago failed to even get the bill up for a vote on the floor of either House. This year in the Forty-fifth Legislature the matter was submitted as emergency and the House of Representatives promptly passed the bill on February 15th by an overwhelming majority of 109-26. The bill went to the Senate and, notwithstanding that upon various test votes a clear majority have voted upon the side of repeal, it has never come up for hearing due to the rules requiring a two-thirds vote to set such bill for special order.

The Forty-fifth Legislature today closes its Regular Session. In my opinion the bill to outlaw gambling at the race tracks has been used as a stalking-horse to prevent other bills from being reached on the Senate calendar. Under all the circumstances I deem it to be to the moral and economic interests of this State that the will of the people be carried out by the repeal of the race track gambling law.

Therefore, I, James V. Allred, Governor of the State of Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, hereby call the first extraordinary session of the Forty-fifth Legislature, to be convened in the City of Austin commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon on Thursday, the 27th day of May, A. D. 1937, for the following purpose:

To outlaw and prohibit the so-called pari-mutuel betting or gaming on horse races, at race tracks, legalized by the Acts of the Forty-third Legislature in 1933.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and

caused the Seal of State to be impressed hereon at Austin this the 22nd day of May, 1937.

JAMES V. ALLRED,
Governor of Texas.

By the Governor:

EDWARD CLARK,
Secretary of State.

Speaker Calvert then declared the House of Representatives to be duly assembled in accordance with the Proclamation.